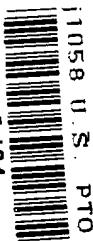


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CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
THE CHASE BUILDING
700 LAVACA, SUITE 800
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3102
(512) 476-1400
FACSIMILE (512) 703-1250
www.intprop.com

A

HOUSTON OFFICE
CHASE TOWER
600 TRAVIS, SUITE 1800
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-2912
(713) 238-8000
FACSIMILE (713) 238-8008

ERIC B. MEYERTONS
(512) 703-1254
emeyertons@intprop.com

FILE: 5682-00300

December 20, 2001

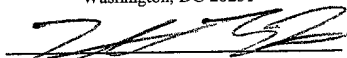


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Derrick Brown

ATTN: PATENT APPLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: **U.S. Patent Application Entitled "SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL AND
MANUFACTURE METHOD FOR THE SAME" -- Ottawa, et al.**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing are:

1. A disclosure including a title page, a 16-page specification, 1 page of claims (Claims 1-3), one page abstract and 2 pages of formal drawings (Fig. 1-3). This disclosure constitutes the application of Kazuhiko Ottawa, Shoji Kato, and Katsunori Sugita for the above-entitled invention;
2. Official copy of Japanese Patent Application 2000-391,422 (23 pages);
3. A Preliminary Amendment (5 pages) including substitute sheets of the specification and abstract (18 pages) and strikethrough sheets of the specification and abstract (20 pages); and

Commissioner for Patents
December 20, 2001
Page 2

4. A return postcard.

Applicant hereby claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-391422 filed on December 22, 2000.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventors' Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned representative of Applicant.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:

Eric B. Meyertons
CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767-0398
(512) 703-1254 (voice)
(512) 703-1250 (facsimile)

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark R. DeLuca
Reg. No. 44,649

EBM:gms
Enclosures